

Solons agree to give 1 month pay: 'We're not greedy'

By Cynthia D. Baltes and Carlo Pardo

THE GALL was for members of Congress to give up their entire pay for the year, which is expected to amount to P24 million in P200 million.

The request of 27 congressmen practicing was to give up one month of their basic

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

By G2 Calcutt
 20-22 inches, a 100% cut
 100% cut

100% cut

GMA delegation includes 100s, in-laws, apos, yayas

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Live simply or simply leave



PRESIDENT Ma Ying-jeou... accompanied by Chinese President Hu Jintao, steps off the red carpet during the welcoming ceremony for the Chinese President Hu Jintao and his wife Wen Jieping. (See story on Page A1)

GMA spells out austerity measures for all officials

By John L. Sison

OFFICIALS living "austere lifestyles" and thinking the government's austerity measures at this time of economic hardship will be hard and miserably charged.

President Ma Ying-jeou's new administration is expected to implement a series of measures to cut government expenses, including the salaries of government officials, and to encourage officials to live simply.

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BIR's August collection misses target by 31%

By Carlo Pardo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue collected a 31 percent shortfall in tax collection last month, prompting Revenue Secretary Ligaya Salazar to call the deficiency one of the "most serious signs of a fiscal crisis."

Salazar, chief of the House committee on revenue, said the BIR's August collection missed its target by 31 percent.

House resolution seeks to put cap on debt payments

By Cynthia D. Baltes

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1000, which will set a cap on the amount of debt payments that the government can make, was passed by the House of Representatives.

The resolution seeks to limit the amount of debt payments to 20 percent of the government's annual revenue.

RP teener 1st 'Struga' laureate

By Carlo Pardo

POETRY is the first laureate of the first Struga Poetry Evenings in the Philippines. The award was given to a 17-year-old student from the University of the Philippines.

The Struga Poetry Evenings is an international poetry competition held in Struga, North Macedonia.

Activist priest urges govt: Tax El Shaddai

By John L. Sison

EFFORTS to drive out the Church from the country should focus on taxing the Church, says a prominent activist priest.

The priest, Fr. El Shaddai, said that the Church's influence in the country is a major obstacle to the development of the Philippines.



CLAMP THE SHIRT! Across the City, protesters hold the International Children's Day in Manila, Bataan, in a bid to stop the government from cutting the health of children.



MEDIA RELLINGS

Flamingo magazine Rellings, wife of slain RTC judge Valeriano Rellings, looks down as she recounts the last day of her husband during a hearing of joint commissioners of public order, drugs and human rights regarding the Police Newsweek case. AP/WIDEWORLD

Planned closure of RP consulate on Sundays irks Pinay maids in HK

MANILA (AP)—Pinay maids in Hong Kong expressed anger Wednesday at a new ruling proposed to close their consulate on Sundays—the only day many domestic helpers can go home.

Hong Kong's thousands of Filipinas must work six days a week, and many viewed it as a major victory two years ago when the Philippine Consulate General began opening on Sundays to make it easier for them to contact their families there.

The acting head of a young organizing group said she and other leaders of HK-based Filipino organizations have expressed their frustration with the proposal, which was outlined in a questionnaire sent to Filipinas.

"It is an outrageous proposal," said Patsy Laine-Gutierrez, of the Philippine General Union, who explained it is the fact that "our government is failing" and "will not recognize closing on Sundays."

No one from the consulate immediately returned a phone call from the Associated Press.

More than 120,000 Filipinas are employed as domestic helpers in Hong Kong, where they are paid little by local standards but can earn enough money to support families back home. AP

Talks to settle Naia terminal 3 row set

MANILA (AP)—Talks have been set for next week with the conviction that both the so-called Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project for a possible settlement, Solicitor General Francisco Bengtson and Philippine Airlines (PAL) representative would want to know if the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (PIATCo) is a subsidiary of the government for any settlement in the \$64-million project.

The proceedings include a "discovery" question of the terminal to make sure that it is accurately stated and not for all territories and an independent audit to determine its "actual economic state," Bengtson said.

"This action may be taken without looking inside a firm. There should be no talk about a settlement without looking out first if the terminal is not really viable," he said.

In May 2003, the Supreme Court annulled the contract for Terminal 3 for violations of the Anti-Grain Law and the build-operate-transfer (BOT) law. The high court said the government was legally allowed to take over the terminal because of Palco's violations.

Palco, and its German-based parent, Fraport, brought against international arbitrators in Singapore and the United States against the government as a result of the decision.

Because of the impasse, the case terminal has been postponed indefinitely.

Palco is asking the government for at least \$50 million in compensation for the suspension of the terminal. The government has offered to pay \$20 million, which the company declined.

Bengtson said government representatives had met with Palco and Fraport officials last week about the talks because Palco failed to make any steps to settle the government's proceedings.

Bengtson said Palco had locked out the government from the facility despite repeated requests, a two-sided to allow inspection of the terminal or to open its financial books, he said.

President Manongal Jr. has ordered that all discussions on the terminal be conducted only on a "dispute-to-dispute basis" between the government's counsel—Bengtson, Justice Francisco Delmasa and the international law firm, White

and Case—and the counsel of Palco and Fraport. "While the government is prepared to listen carefully to good faith proposals leading to possible settlement, it has to be made clear that the government is under no obligation to take any and pay for the terminal," Bengtson said.

He said the terminal was built under the build-operate-transfer scheme "strictly because government lacked the necessary financial resources to build it."

He said that if government were to opt for spending public money to operate the terminal, it would do so only after determining the true condition of Terminal 3 "and of what actually and reasonably went into the construction thereof, and the requirements of the best interests of the country and in the spirit of full transparency and accountability."

Palco is 69 percent owned by the Chinese Singapore Group, 30 percent by Fraport and 10 percent by the Japan-based Nishiki Inc. Palco paid 6.5 million (\$20 million) to Nishiki International Corp., the Japanese company contracted to build the facility. Philip C. Salinas

Quake rocks Mindanao

MANILA (AP)—A MODERATE earth quake rocked the eastern portion of Mindanao early Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, officials said.

The 5.8 magnitude quake was centered in Marikina off Davao Oriental province's Marikina town, about 1,300 kilometers southeast of Manila, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

Historians said the quake, which was also felt in southern Benguet town and nearby Ilocos City, could have been caused by the movement of tectonic plates. No damage or aftershocks were reported, the institute said.

The Philippines is along the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," where much quakes and volcanic activity are common.

It registered 7.7 magnitude in 1990 killed nearly 2,000 people in the state northern island of Luzon. AP

House resolution seeks to put cap on debt payments

Special Report

resulted of a hearing before the House committee on ways and means to address the fiscal crisis.

Automatic debt appropriation
Under Executive Order No. 226, debt payments get priority over other expenses.

On Nov. 92, which then President Corason Aquino signed in 1997, allowed the "automatic appropriation" of debt payments from the national budget that was originally intended for the Social Services No. 1117 of the Department of Social Services. Interest payments will be the largest permanent expenditure, accounting for 33 percent of the proposed FY07's billion budget.

getting priority on the loan principal, debt service will not be up to 84 percent of gross revenue in 2006, according to Rep. Arroyo Salazar (Luzon, Ilocos). He said that the House would have to pay the total debt service of P100.7 billion.

Another resolution, drafted by Rep. Eduardo Zulueta (Luzon, Ilocos) and signed by the House committee on appropriations in 2005, would be to limit the total debt service to 30 percent of the gross revenue.

Zulueta said he cannot see the debt program would be "more rigorous and effective."

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Debt relief for the Third World
In the past, Aquino said that the House is not to be used to pay the debt service. He said that the House would have to pay the total debt service of P100.7 billion.

The 3rd Asian Pacific Games committee in Beijing, of which Dr. Aquino is the honorary chair, will be attended by President Arroyo.

The speaker said the proposal, which he also made in the Senate, would be submitted for consideration by government in 2006.

the United Nations, and the I-F members.

"All of these problems that we are talking about—these against poverty, health, against education, social crisis, foreign exchange crisis and all economic, corporate foreign exchange," he stressed.

"It is because we cannot see the debt service that we have the beginnings of a crisis."

Scattered records

The country has no main database on the total debt of the country because records are scattered in the different departments of the government, according to Rep. Eduardo Arroyo Jr. (Luzon, Ilocos). He said that the House committee on appropriations

Analysis and there was a need to put up a main database so that Congress could effectively monitor government borrowing and payments.

Rep. Robert "Bo" Robert (Luzon, Ilocos) and the House must be so the front of looking into the government borrowing and lending issues.

"We should study in depth not only all the lending, all these loans, but also the government management of the debt," he said.

Under the debt of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), Arroyo said the President is now in a situation where creating a Risk Management Office that would conduct an inventory of existing debts.



ALCORN

Arroyo said that there was no single office, which has to be a combination of all the industries of the GOCCs.

A big part of the public sector debt represents the liabilities of GOCCs.

The House has introduced to the President a bill to amend the proposed General Appropriations Act for 2006.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate rules and administration committee, and the "soft" budget" was more than the P100 billion authorized by the GOCCs.

He said Malacañang did not intend to pay 300 billion for government expenditures, another P10 billion for accounts payable for 2006, and P10 billion for the interest expense of liabilities assumed from the National Treasury.

Arroyo said the interest payments may not have been included in the Malacañang proposed budget or in any to increase the budget deficit.

"Like the situation, we point it to have actual expenditures in one bill to the interest of government. We should not be allowed to define spending levels," he said.

Arroyo said there was nothing more to cut from the budget as doing so would clearly "kill the economy."

"If you reduce the so-called P100.7 billion from the 2007 bill, it will be a catastrophe. The bill item is for people, their education and health, and the debt to go home and plant rice," he said.

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SALES

Alfa Romeo, Acura, Audi, BMW, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, GMC, Honda, Hyundai, Infiniti, Isuzu, Jaguar, Jeep, Kia, Lexus, Lincoln, Lotus, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mini, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Oldsmobile, Peugeot, Plymouth, Pontiac, Renault, Saab, Saturn, Subaru, Suzuki, Toyota, Volkswagen, Volvo.

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HONDA

The WORLD

Lita Lamerre & Gueco

Attackers with bomb belts seize Russian school

MOSCOW—More than a dozen attackers bearing guns and wrapped in suicide-bomb belts seized an elementary school in the Russian region of North Ossetia Wednesday morning and were holding hundreds of hostages, including more than 200 children.

The seizure took place on the first day of the Russian school year, when a large number of parents had accompanied their children to class. Reports said the school took place after a ceremony marking the school year's start, when the attackers drove up to a school truck of the type often used for troop transport.

Confusion broke out after the school

children were being held captive. A regional police official, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid being belittled, said the attackers had been led into the school by a militant.

The school, later in a week, President Vladimir Putin intervened by sending troops to the Black Sea coast of Sochi and ordered in Moscow's Central Bank. Putin also had to hurry back after two Russian air forces had been sent simultaneously to other locations and were neutral buildings.

Upon arrival at the Moscow airport, Putin held an immediate meeting with the heads of Russia's

Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense, the Russian press agency said.

The attackers entered the school when they could blow up the school. If police tried to storm it and demanded talks with regions of officials and a well-known pro-Russian, Leonid Rebec, who had been in the school during the seizure of a Moscow district in 2002, Putin said.

They demanded the release of fighters detained in connection with a series of attacks on police stations in neighboring republics in June, the first time

since the September 11 attacks.

As a result, a girl of about 7 in a first prize dress and a red bow in her hair stood around a table with a small table and a red bow in her hair, but hand held by a black school uniform, followed by an older woman. Russian news reports said the school was in a state of a larger prison, some after talking in the school's hallways and others in the hall.

Inside, during the school, a regional spokesman for the Federal Security Service, and there were 11 attackers, both male and female.

Muscovites distraught by subway suicide blast

MOSCOW—Moscow residents were distraught by a suicide bombing on a subway stop that killed 14 people last a station of flowers and the station entrance on Parkside and police presence at the station.

The attack came just a week after two Russian planes carrying 99 people crashed almost simultaneously in what officials say were terrorist bombings.

In Moscow, war has been declared in an, where the enemy is common and there is no front. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, according to the Russian Military News Agency, is in a meeting about the situation in the Caucasus region.

Deputies believe, through the night to save the lives of people arrested by the bomb that officials said was packed with both and other small bombs in order to maximize casualties. In all, 30 people were wounded and 49 of them hospitalized, officials said.

The federal police service said the blast had the potential of two kilograms of TNT.

A few hours later the Supreme Court had ruled down the appeal of Ramzan Kadyrov, a Chechen leader, who was sentenced to an eternal middle, bombing average of a Moscow court room for years. A police station was killed while trying to enter the bomb.

Mayor Yuriy Lutsenko, in a meeting with the Russian police, said the Russian police had to be ready to handle the situation. He said the Russian police had to be ready to handle the situation.

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PROTESTERS attack burning mosque in Ramatouli to protest the killing of 12 Nigerian hostages by Iraqi soldiers.

Killing of 12 hostages sparks mosque burning

KABUL—Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in a mosque and clashed with police in the capital Wednesday to protest the killing of 12 Nigerian hostages by Iraqi soldiers.

After the attack, the government issued a statement saying the killing of 12 Nigerian hostages by Iraqi soldiers was a "terrorist act."

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US first lady hails husband's war on terror

NEW YORK—Republican National Committee co-chair Laura Bush and Arnold Schwarzenegger commended President George W. Bush in the second Bush's first day in office.

She said the president was a man of strength and compassion. "You can overcome him, especially in the end," she said.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Explosives rock Iraq council meet

BAHDA—Security forces in Iraq are on high alert after a series of explosions rocked the capital Wednesday. The explosions were attributed to a car bomb and a truck bomb.

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US first lady Laura Bush addresses delegates at the Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City Aug. 31.



Kerry: US can win antiterrorism war

NAH BURG, Tennessee—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry says President George W. Bush can win the war on terror by focusing on the war in Iraq, which he says is the key to winning the war on terror.

By a speech to the American Legion on Wednesday, Kerry was highlighting Bush's own admission that his administration "must" focus on the war in Iraq.

Kerry said he would win the war on terror by focusing on the war in Iraq, which he says is the key to winning the war on terror.

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Palace defends temporary appointments

CEB CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has the authority to issue emergency appointments, according to the view of Justice Secretary Leonor Aquino, as President E. and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said.



ARROYO

Arroyo said justice who had been appointed as an acting secretary were not legally allowed to assume the functions of their offices and their appointments are equivalent to the congressional Executive Appointments.

But, who is in a hurry, said the President's power to issue temporary appointments derived from the Administrative Code.

He said the power of the President to issue temporary appointments was affirmed in the Supreme Court in 1991 in the *Abadilla* case.

Macapagal said: "I believe this should put to rest the discussion being made by the media. The only way the appointment can be totally contained is if the president issues a new law, which, I think, will require time to make."

Arroyo explained that since 17 of the Administrative Code provide that the President may temporarily assign any officer to the office of the executive branch if the government service is in any way interrupted, it is a temporary measure to prevent the interruption of an office at the executive branch if the officer regularly appointed to the office is unable to perform his duties for reasons of illness, absence or any other cause or if there exists a vacancy.

He said the purpose of the law was to pre-

vent an interruption in the performance of public service.

The only exception to this provision is in the case of temporary appointments in a non-essential position which is specifically prohibited by the Constitution.

The President cannot issue a law appointing anyone to the Commission on Appointments, the Civil Service Commission or the Commission on Audit, Arroyo said. Leonor E. Aquino, Jr., JSC Vice-Chief Justice.

RP to buy 200 CNG-run passenger buses from China

THE PHILIPPINE government is expected to sign a deal with China to buy 200 CNG-run passenger buses from the country, according to a report from the Chinese government.

The deal is expected to be signed by the Chinese government and the Philippine government in the near future.

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China is expected to supply the buses to the Philippine government. The deal is expected to be signed by the Chinese government and the Philippine government in the near future.

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Marine experts cite RP's rich biodiversity

A GLOBAL study of marine biodiversity has identified the Philippines as having the richest and most diverse marine and coastal ecosystems in the world.

The study found that the Philippines has the highest number of marine species in the world.

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1229000, 123000

Subic Bay netter eyes Bundesliga

By Owen U. Irua
BARRIDO is a busy fish. And despite the fact that he is not in his native Subic Bay, he is currently competing in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) as a member of the German-based team, the Berlin Capitals.

Known for his off-court antics, Barrido is currently competing in the PBA as a member of the Berlin Capitals. He is currently competing in the PBA as a member of the Berlin Capitals.

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SPORTSWATCH

Marathon to author in 2005 SEAG

A 2004 of University of the Philippines (UP) Manila has been named the 2004 SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) Marathon to author in 2005. The event will be held in the Philippines.

Team Maynila Hong Kong-bound

Team Maynila Philippines team today in Hong Kong for the 2004 Hong Kong International Chess Championship. The team is led by Grandmaster (GM) Francisco X. Alimela.

4 entries pose NCAA basketball

SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) basketball competition is set to begin in Manila. The event will be held in the Philippines. The event will be held in the Philippines.

Paragaita shares 2nd-3rd places

SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) Paragaita competition is set to begin in Manila. The event will be held in the Philippines. The event will be held in the Philippines.

Pacific Internet pledges support

Pacific Internet, a company specializing in internet services, has pledged support for the SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) competition. The company is based in the Philippines.

Centro Escolar dribbles up New Era

Centro Escolar University (CEU) has won the New Era basketball tournament. The team is led by Coach [Name].

Generals stretch winning streak

The Philippine National Football Federation (PNFF) has announced that the Generals team has won the PFF Cup. The team is led by Coach [Name].

NGAP bares new formula for RP team

By Remy C. Castillo

NGAP (National Games Association of the Philippines) is looking forward to being represented by its own team in the 2004 SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) in Hong Kong.

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The Philippines will be looking for a new team to represent it in the 2004 SEAG (Southeast Asian Games) in Hong Kong.

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STARBUCKS: A basketball player in a white jersey with the number 15, dribbling the ball. He is wearing a purple cap and looking down at the ball.

Marcaida files cases versus NCFP, Estimo

A FORMER member of the National Commission on Freedom of the Press (NCFP) has filed cases against the NCFP and its chair, Estimo.

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Korea, Japan join Asian MTB

THE Asian Mountain Bike (MTB) Championship is set to begin in Manila. The event will be held in the Philippines.

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Who won in Athens?

By Remy C. Castillo

ATHENS (Greece) — The Athens Olympics have ended, and the question is: Who won? The event was held in Athens, Greece.

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METROBRIEFS

JI suspects moved

The JMWAVE Regional Task Force (RTF) has ordered the transfer of its operations offices to the new location of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the new Metro Manila. The RTF is currently based in the old PNP building in the old Metro Manila. The RTF is currently based in the old PNP building in the old Metro Manila. The RTF is currently based in the old PNP building in the old Metro Manila.

Armed men caught

Eight men were arrested by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the new Metro Manila. The men were caught while they were in the process of carrying out a robbery. The men were caught while they were in the process of carrying out a robbery. The men were caught while they were in the process of carrying out a robbery.

Gas station boycott

A group of students from the University of the Philippines (UP) has organized a boycott of gas stations in the new Metro Manila. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline.

A star for Aglipay

A group of students from the University of the Philippines (UP) has organized a boycott of gas stations in the new Metro Manila. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline. The students are protesting against the high prices of gasoline.

A smelly affair

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'English-only zones' set in Manila

By Tania T. Quintanilla

PNPRTF zone longer
Another of the government's long-pending agenda (PLM) was announced as the city began implementing its English-only policy in the school.

In called "Free Zones," where students may speak in any language they wish, have also been designated.

Next semester, the "English Zones" in these places will be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and again from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Teachers will serve as monitors and be prompted to speak in English.

PLM is the first of the three government programs to implement this program, which is aimed at making schools more comfortable in using English in their daily lives.



A WALK THROUGH LETS
Rain and flood help to dampen the spirit of Makati City residents who go about their lives in spite of the frequent rain and water inundation of their neighborhood. Above, students and other city folk—many carrying umbrellas—walk through flooded Let's Road.

Wrong time kills woman in Makati mishap

A TRUCK driver who tried to make a right turn in the middle of a busy street in Makati City was involved in a fatal accident that killed a woman.

Manuelito, who was driving a truck, was involved in a fatal accident that killed a woman. The accident occurred in the middle of a busy street in Makati City.

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An outrageous decision

ON TARGET
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